

Sheikh Jaber meets Qasem

KUWAIT (Petra) — Kuwaiti Emir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah Wednesday received Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem and Arab League Secretary General Chadi Klibi, who are in Kuwait to attend the meeting of the six-member Arab ministerial committee entrusted with finding a solution to the Lebanese problem. The meeting started here Wednesday (see story below). The committee was meeting with representatives of the Lebanese Front, which represent the mostly Christian right-wing in Lebanon. Sheikh Jaber's meeting with Qasem and Klibi was attended by Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad, who is chairman of the Arab League committee on Lebanon.

Jordan Times

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His Majesty King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and senior officials receive Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak upon his arrival in Amman Wednesday for a several-hour visit (Petra photo)

Rifai outlines outcome of Baghdad meetings

ACC committee approves wide-ranging accords

AMMAN (J.T.) — The prime ministers of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) ended three days of talks in Baghdad Wednesday after drawing up agreements covering the administrative and legal structures of the four-member council and economic, defence and security matters of its member states.

Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, who led the Jordanian delegation to the Baghdad meeting, said upon his return home Wednesday that the conference approved the rules and procedures for ACC activities and agreements governing the ACC headquarters, privileges and status of ACC officials and the council's statute and financial regulations.

Rifai said the prime ministerial committee also approved draft agreements on security coordination, national and regional security and movement and recruitment of ACC manpower.

Also approved were agreements on legal and judicial cooperation and air transport and civil aviation among the ACC member states.

Rifai told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the meeting also decided that Jordanian perceptions be accepted as guidelines for scopes of future cooperation and that the Jordanian concepts serve as basis for the agenda for the next prime ministerial committee meeting.

The prime ministers reviewed potential candidates for the post of ACC secretary general and finalised a list of nominees, Rifai said.

The prime minister said all



Prime Minister Zaid Rifai is seen off by Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan upon his departure from Baghdad Wednesday (Petra photo)

recommendations, agreements and resolutions reached by the Baghdad meeting would be submitted to a summit of the four ACC heads of state in Cairo after the "Eid Al Fitr and would come into force after endorsement by the summit.

In a statement he issued upon departure from Baghdad earlier, Rifai said the meetings were positive and friendly and dominated by a brotherly atmosphere. He said the participants voiced determination and resolve to achieve the objectives of the ACC.

Rifai thanked Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan and the Iraqi government for their efforts, which he said, contributed to the success of the meeting.

Ramadan, who headed the Iraqi side during the talks, described the agreements reached as "vital and reflecting the great expectations of the peoples of the four countries."

"The important achievements we accomplished are evident that we are moving on the correct way to fulfil our people's expectations," Ramadan told a press briefing after the meetings at Baghdad's conference centre ended.

Ramadan said the meeting agreed on a wide range issues, including coordination of their foreign policies and expanding their trade and economic relations.

The Iraqi leader said the four countries are to discuss and unify their positions on different Arab and international issues.

"This is a new phenomenon... when our diplomats will speak in one voice in international and Arab forums," he commented.

Mitterrand says France neutral in crisis

Fierce artillery duel in Beirut; talks in Kuwait

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Panic struck Beirut streets Wednesday, the eve of the civil war's 14th anniversary, as an unexpectedly harsh shelling duel erupted between Syrian and rightist gunners.

Police said four people were killed and 17 wounded in the barrage that broke out at 9:20 a.m. (0720 GMT) and targeted residential districts in war-divided Beirut.

That raised to 184 people killed and 636 wounded the overall toll since the current round of civil war fighting broke out March 8 between Michel Aoun's mainly Christian troops and an alliance of Syrian and Lebanese militia forces.

The wooshing sound of outgoing rockets and the thuds of shell explosions rocked Beirut's western and eastern sectors as local radio stations interrupted their programmes to urge civilians to remain indoors.

French Ambassador Paul Blanck told reporters a shell scored a direct hit on the French embassy compound in the suburb of Hazmieh, east of Beirut.

"It inflicted damage, but no casualties," Blanck said.

France has backed the rightist call for a Syrian withdrawal from

Lebanon and dispatched two ships carrying humanitarian aid. Muslims say the French are biased in favour of the mostly Christian rightists.

The shelling duel, the fiercest since the Arab League called a ceasefire in Lebanon a week ago, broke out a few minutes after a group of right-wing Christian politicians left Beirut for Kuwait.

The five-man team met later in the day with Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, who heads a six-man Arab League panel on Lebanon.

Kuwait meeting

"If the Lebanese are left alone and distant from any annoyance by any of our Arab brethren, we will be able to coexist," George Saadeh, head of the Falange party who leads the delegation, said in an arrival statement in Kuwait.

The five-member delegation includes Michel Saseen and Dany Chamoun of the National Liberal Party, Shaker Abu Slayman and George Edwan of the Tamuz party.

Referring to the Muslim demands for political reforms as a means of ending Lebanon's factional strife, Saadeh said: "The front is not opposed to political reforms, but we cannot turn to political reforms at a time when a shower of shells is falling on us and our sons."

"If the situation is stabilised, everyone will find us moving with

reforms beyond any imagination."

In Paris, President Francois Mitterrand said Wednesday that France was not choosing sides in Lebanon and stressed that the shipment of humanitarian aid was destined for everyone.

"France is and wants to be the friend of Lebanese of all confessions, all communities," Mitterrand told his cabinet. For France, he said, "it is not a question of choosing between victims of the clashes taking place in Lebanon."

Hoss accepts French aid

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's civilian prime minister Wednesday welcomed assurances of impartiality from French President Francois Mitterrand and agreed a solution to a crisis over French emergency aid.

Mitterrand, seeking to quell fears that Paris was siding with Lebanon's rightists, said in Paris that relief supplies en route to Lebanon in two French ships were intended for all victims of the fighting.

"I have been informed of the statement by the French president and I can only hail the objective and fair position," Selim Al Hoss said in a statement.

"The interests of the working people have nothing in common with attempts to sever the existing ties of friendship and cooperation among our peoples, dismantle the socialist system in the republic and push it into the slough of ethnic enmity," Gorbachev said.

"We stand for the consistent expansion of the rights of the republics, of all national formations, for filling them with real content," Gorbachev said, in a reference to growing demands in Georgia for greater autonomy from Moscow.

"Restructuring of inter-ethnic relations is not the replanning of the borders or the breakdown of the national-state structure of the country. We are resolutely against this," he added.

Gorbachev appealed to Georgian patriotism "as a man who has deep respect for the traditions

and noble qualities.

"It depends on you to restore peace to Georgia. This is the moral duty of everyone who holds the memory of his ancestors, who values peace and harmony in his homeland and, most of all, who thinks about his future."

His statement came as a Soviet spokesman announced that the death toll from Sunday's clashes in the capital Tbilisi had risen to 19 with the death of a girl in hospital. Troops used clubs to break up a crowd of some 8,000 people chanting nationalist slogans.

Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov told a news briefing Wednesday that the Communist Party leader in Georgia, Dzhumber Patashvili, had offered to resign after the clashes. He said the party authorities were considering his request.

"Patashvili asked to be relieved

of his duties in response to criticism," Gerasimov said. "The final decision will be made in line with proceedings by the appropriate party organs."

Sixteen people, most of them women, were killed during the clashes. The others died in hospital of injuries.

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and noble qualities.

The clashes followed a week of

demonstrations in Tbilisi

attended by up to 100,000 people, many of whom held banners calling for "Russian invaders" to go home and waved black, white and claret Georgian national flags.

Gerasimov said Patashvili offered to resign at a meeting at the Georgian Academy of Sciences, attended by intellectuals and representatives of nationalist groups, as well as Politburo members Edward Shevardnadze and Georgy Razumovsky.

Shevardnadze, a native Georgian who was himself party chief in the republic until he became Soviet foreign minister in 1985, cancelled a visit to East Germany to help resolve the unrest in Tbilisi.

Shevardnadze also postponed a trip to West Germany because of the unrest, the Bonn Foreign Ministry said Wednesday. The scheduled visit to Bonn Sunday and Monday would be made at a later date, a ministry spokesman said.

Authorities continued to enforce a ban on public gathering and an 11 p.m. to 6 a.m. curfew in Tbilisi.

Gerasimov told reporters Tuesday that about 200 people had been arrested for violating the curfew, and police were confiscating 66,000 registered hunting rifles from the public. He did not give a reason.

Sudan to explain peace moves

KHARTOUM (R) — The Sudanese government is to send top-level delegations to six neighbouring countries and Tunisia to explain efforts to end the civil war in the south, a newspaper said Wednesday. The English-language Sudan Times said the delegations also due to visit Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda, Egypt, Zaire and Libya, could start leaving as early as Friday. The rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) has been fighting since 1983 to end what it regards as the domination of the south by the north. A Sudanese government delegation and rebel representatives ended four days of peace talks in Addis Ababa last week and agreed to meet again.

King, Mubarak discuss latest developments, peace efforts

By Ramis Atalla
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak Wednesday held talks on a number of issues related mainly to developments on the regional and international levels and on efforts of bringing peace to the Middle East.

Speaking to reporters at the end of the several-hour meeting, King Hussein expressed optimism over efforts to find a peaceful settlement to the Middle East problem and said he was looking forward to his visit to the U.S. next week.

"I think we are both convinced that the world, including the U.S., is on the right track in treating problems that stand in the way of peace," the King said adding that if such regional problems go unresolved they would threaten world peace.

King Hussein, who is scheduled to meet U.S. President George Bush April 19, said Mubarak had briefed him on his

latest visit to the U.S. and the impressions he had following his talks with Bush and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

Mubarak told reporters Wednesday the Bush administration, which took office this January, showed a good understanding of the Palestine question and its ramifications and that Washington did not oppose an international conference on the Middle East.

"What the U.S. President said about occupied land and the remarks he made about (exchanging) land for peace give a clear idea of the U.S. vision of a solution (to the Middle East conflict)," Mubarak told reporters at

Marka airport upon his departure. "The U.S. does not oppose (the idea of convening an international) conference but a lot of preparation and consultations are needed before they (U.S. officials) reach a conclusion with (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak) Shamir on the matter," he added.

Asked whether Egypt was trying to convince the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to accept Shamir's plan for elections in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, Mubarak said the PLO did not object to the elections as such but to the conditions under which such elections would be held.

"I have not seen any statement by Palestinian officials in the PLO saying they have rejected elections in the occupied territories," Mubarak said.

He said conditions set by the PLO for holding elections were Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories and international supervision of the election process.

"This gives us the impression that the PLO does not oppose the elections; but for those elections

to be held, if the PLO agrees to them, certain preparations have to take place," such as figuring out which laws are to serve as a basis for the elections and whether or not Arabs in Arab Jerusalem will be able to participate in the polls, Mubarak said. "There are many points which need to be addressed and it is not easy to say there is agreement on elections. It depends primarily on the PLO."

The Egyptian president said Egypt was working in support of the PLO in its quest to find a solution. "His Majesty King Hussein and myself are working to reach an agreement and we are exerting our best efforts in this field to support the PLO."

Asked if Jordan supported Egypt's position on that matter, King Hussein said: "We have a unified position on all issues."

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the two leaders discussed the latest developments in the Arab and international scenes, Middle East peace efforts and means to boost Arab cooperation within the framework of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC).

Upon his arrival for the brief

visit to Jordan Wednesday, Mubarak was received by King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, King Hussein's political and special advisors, a number of Cabinet ministers and senior military and civil officials.

Mubarak was accompanied by a high-level delegation, comprising Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Transport and Communications Sulaiman Mutwalli, Information Minister Safwat Al Sharif, Interior Minister Zaki Badr, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butros Ghali, Education Minister Ahmad Srour, Director of the President's Office Usama Al Baz, Cairo Governor Yousef Abu Taleb, and the president's Secretary for Information Mustafa Al Faqil.

King Hussein hosted an iftar in honour of Mubarak and the delegation. The banquet was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Rifai, Sharif Zaid, King Hussein's political and special advisors and a number of Cabinet ministers.

At least 20 wounded in W. Bank, Gaza clashes

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — At least 20 Palestinians were wounded in clashes with Israeli soldiers in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip Wednesday.

In widespread violence in the Gaza Strip, hospital officials said soldiers shot and wounded 15 Palestinians with a variety of ammunition in clashes during a general strike called to protest at Monday's killing of a Palestinian by a Jewish gunman in Jerusalem.

Two Palestinians charged with being leaders of the 16-month-old uprising in the occupied territories appeared in court Wednesday and were remanded in custody until the end of their trial.

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Israeli sources said five members of the Fatah movement in the town of Taiba were arrested before the group could carry out planned attacks.

Two Palestinians charged with being leaders of the 16-month-old uprising in the occupied territories appeared in court Wednesday and were remanded in custody until the end of their trial.

In continuing protests in Jerusalem, police said about 20 Palestinians stoned an Israeli bank branch in the eastern sector. Police chased them and arrested 10 suspects, spokesman Uzi Sanjour said.

The rightist rabbi, a founder of the Gush Emunim (block of the faithful) movement, said Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin should be put on trial for failing to quell the Palestinian uprising.

Prosecutor Yoram Naom said in the charge sheet that Levinger fired in the air, then at random toward shops in the Hebron market last Sept. 30 when his car was

stolen.

Kayed Salah, 42, a shoe vendor, was killed and another Palestinian wounded. After the shooting, Levinger overturned stalls in the market, Naom said.

Two Palestinians charged with being leaders of the 16-month-old uprising in the occupied territories appeared in court Wednesday and were remanded in custody until the end of their trial.

It was still unclear whether the incident was the work of an individual extremist or of the shadowy Jewish underground group, the Sicari, who claimed responsibility in telephone calls to radio stations.

Rabbi Moshe Levinger, among the first Jews to settle in the

Hebron in 1968, was charged with manslaughter, sabotage and intentionally damaging property, a spokeswoman said.

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stolen.

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Rebels plan push on Kabul

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Afghan rebels stationed near Kabul are geared for an offensive once the snow in the mountains of northern Afghanistan melts, Tehran Radio quoted a spokesman as saying Wednesday.

It said Mohammad Karim Khalili also told a news conference that a coalition of eight Iranian-based rebel groups he represents opposed a plan for U.N. posts on Afghanistan's borders.

Khalili said areas in northern and western Afghanistan controlled by the coalition's fighters were gripped by severe cold and the climate for operations improved as the snow melted.

"The coalition's forces in Maydan, Ghazni province and north of Kabul are being equipped for an offensive and we will soon open a new front near Kabul," the radio quoted Khalili as saying.

The Iranian news agency

IRNA said Afghan Mujahedeen captured 800 paramilitary troops when they overran a government military post at Ghurian, in Herat province bordering Iran.

Reporting from Mashhad on the Iranian side of the border, the agency said the rebels also captured large amounts of anti-aircraft guns, howitzers and other weapons.

The Iranian-based Mujahedeen say they control a quarter of Afghanistan and have the backing of a quarter of the people.

Khalili said the coalition opposed any plan to turn the Afghan problem into a regional or international one and the Afghan people would quickly topple the Soviet-backed government.

Donors pledge Sudan stockpile aid

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Donors have pledged \$133 million required to stockpile food in Sudan before the rainy season isolates villages, but a U.N. official said Tuesday that not all Sudanese who need help can be reached.

James P. Grant, the head of Operation Sudan Lifeline, said the goal of aiding one million people and preventing over 100,000 deaths by starvation "may be unrealistic but it's what is needed."

"We have no alternative but to try," said Grant, who is also the director of the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF).

Operation Sudan Lifeline hopes to move 100,000 metric

tonnes of food to isolated villages in Sudan before the rains begin in May, washing out roads and air strips.

In August 1985, at the height of the Ethiopian famine, only 76,500 tonnes of food was delivered by international agencies under far more favourable conditions.

Grant told reporters that about 20,000 metric tonnes of food have been delivered so far, divided about equally between areas controlled by the government in Khartoum and the rebel areas in the south.

The emergency programme had received \$77 million in pledges by the time Grant led a

U.N. planning conference a month ago in Khartoum, and received pledges for the rest of the \$133 million needed at a donor pledging meeting Tuesday.

Pledges include \$11 million from the United States, \$10 million from the European Community, and the donation of the services of four Transall aircraft capable of carrying 11 metric tonnes in a flight, from France and West Germany, said Grant.

Grant denied reports that the southern Sudanese city of Juba has been cut off from airfields by rebel threats from the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), or that Ethiopia has closed its border to convoys of food.

Fundamentalists rounded up in Assiut

ASSIUT (AP) — Police detained 50 militant Muslim fundamentalists Wednesday in a large-scale security operation to preempt demonstrations against the arrest of a prominent anti-government cleric, security officials said.

Assiut's security chief, Major-General Mahmoud Sirry Al Fakharany, disclosed the detentions and said police were searching for another 20 extremists in the provincial capital, 380 kilometres south of Cairo.

Other security officials speaking on condition of anonymity, said police have orders from Cairo to detain Muslim activists in other southern provinces to prevent possible street protests on Friday, after prayers. Provinces targeted for the sweeps

include Fayoum, Al Minya, Sohag and Qena.

The security dragnet was the largest since last December, when about 500 Muslim extremists were rounded up in Cairo, Assiut and other cities.

The preemptive detentions grew out of a clash last Friday between police and Muslim extremists in Fayoum, 100 kilometres southwest of Cairo, in which "fundamentalist" leader Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman and 38 others were arrested. Fayoum capital of province of the same name.

Four people were wounded in the melee, involving firearms and stones, which erupted when 300 to 400 Muslim militants rioted

after noon prayers. The militants were led from a mosque by Abdul Rahman, a blind preacher twice acquitted of charges relating to the assassination of President Anwar Sadat in 1981.

He was arrested under an emergency law in force since Sadat was killed, Abdul Rahman currently is detained until investigators determine whether ground exists for criminal charges.

Security officials said authorities ordered the new dragnet on information that extremists in southern Egypt planned to take to the streets after mosque prayers Friday to protest Abdul Rahman's arrest and demand his release.

U.S. says Arab opposition has not killed Shamir plan

By Carol Giacomo
Reuter

WASHINGTON — The United States Tuesday discounted Arab opposition to an Israeli proposal for elections in the occupied territories, insisting the plan was still alive.

State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler also said Secretary of State James Baker was considering an Arab League request to meet in May with a delegation including a member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The meeting, if it took place, would be the highest level contact between the United States and the PLO since a dialogue was resumed last December after a 13-year hiatus.

Following PLO statements rejecting the election proposal, the

Arab League Monday declared the idea unacceptable to Arab states and said Israel was trying to deflect pressure to withdraw from the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Despite this reaction, Tutwiler said the administration did not believe the proposal was effectively scuttled.

"We are asking all those committed to peace to give us a chance to explore and develop these ideas," she said.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, under U.S. pressure to propose "new ideas" to revive the Middle East peace process, offered elections in the occupied territories on a visit to Washington last week.

Shamir "came with an idea which we believe has potential (but) there are a lot of questions to explore and we plan to do so in

the days and weeks ahead," Tutwiler told reporters.

A senior U.S. official told Reuters Monday an appeal for support for the U.S. approach would be made to His Majesty King Hussein, who is due here next week, other Arab states and to U.S. allies.

Tutwiler stressed the U.S. view that "this is a step-by-step process... you have to crawl before you walk."

She also noted, without elaboration, that "it is not unusual in a process for different parties to stake out more extreme positions especially at the beginning of the process."

United Arab effort

Clavis Maksoud, the Arab League's permanent observer at the United Nations, said the league would send a delegation of

foreign ministers and its secretary general to the United States in mid-May to discuss the Middle East. The group would include a PLO representative, he said.

Tutwiler confirmed an invitation for a meeting between Baker and the league delegation had been received and said: "Our answer is, this is being looked at."

Earlier, a U.S. official said the administration expects Israel to reduce tensions in the occupied lands despite Shamir's public insistence his government plans no change.

"It's my sense that steps can be taken but they may not want to see them as being necessarily reciprocal," the official told Reuters in an interview.

While Shamir's government "will go to great lengths not to be seen negotiating with the PLO..."

that doesn't mean... they will never change the way they deal with the intifada," he said, referring to the 16-month-old Palestinian uprising.

"Evidence"

The official cited as evidence the fact that Israel last week released 450 Palestinians imprisoned during the uprising.

"The moment this violence will stop or be reduced, then the tension will disappear," he added.

U.S. officials have insisted they made no specific demands of Shamir but stressed the need for releasing political prisoners, ending "administrative detentions" and other steps to reduce tensions in the occupied lands.

U.S. officials said they would make similar demands of the PLO, in an effort to build confidence that the two adversaries are interested in peace.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

632785

St. Joseph Church Tel: 624590, Church of the Annunciation Tel:

627440.

Be in Sale Church Tel: 661757, Church of the Annunciation Tel:

623541.

Anglican Church Tel: 625383, Tel:

628543.

Armenian Catholic Church Tel:

713311.

Orthodox Church Tel:

775261.

St. Ephraim Church Tel: 771751.

Amman International Church Tel:

605126.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel:

811295.

Rainbow Congregation Tel: 822605.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel: 813817, 821264.

PROGRAMME TWO

18:30...Coulisses

18:30...Documentary about plants

News in French

18:15...Strategem

News in Hebrew

19:45...Varieties

News in Arabic

20:00...Bill Cosby Show

21:10...Beauty and the Beast

22:00...News in English

Feature film: "Strucker"

PRAYER TIMES

03:45...Fajr (Sunrise) Dulta

05:45...Dhuhr

11:36...Asr

15:12...Maghrib

19:27...Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swieifeh

Tel: 810740

Assemblies of God Church, Tel:

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Majed Al Seineh 881635

Dr. Abdul Majid Al Shaeer 791405

Dr. Mahmoud Allan 894866

Dr. Mahmoud Abu Maalouf 793344

Firnas pharmacy 661912

Firdous pharmacy 771336

Al Asema pharmacy 621053

Nourith pharmacy 623672

Al Sabea pharmacy 623640

Yacoub pharmacy 644045

Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be fair with the appearance of some low clouds and winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, it will be hazy with northwesterly moderate winds and calm seas.

Min/max. temp.

Aman 13 / 24

Aqaba 19 / 32

Desert 14 / 28

Jordan Valley 16 / 32

Yesterday's high temperatures: Aman 23, Aqaba 31, Humidity readings: Aman 34 per cent, Aqaba 41 per cent.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Complaints 897467

Amman Municipality 787111

Telephone Information (02) 227755

(02) 227756

Oppressor Calls 12

Central Amman Telephone Repair 623101

Abdali Telephone Repair 661101

Jordan Television 771751

Radios Jordan 774111

Water Authority 681912

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power 623687

Company 623672

RJ Taggart Information 06-52300

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights 06-5200

Queen Alia Int. Airport 06-52000

Queen Alia Int. Airport 06-52000

Queen Alia

National News

JORDAN TIMES, THURSDAY-FRIDAY, APRIL 13-14, 1989 3

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

LOCAL COUNCILS: Prime Minister Zaid Rifai has approved the formation of a committee to discuss issues pertaining to improving financial situations of local councils. The committee groups Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment secretary general, the director general of the Cities and Villages Development Bank, the director general of the General Budget Department and the finance managers in both the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment and Greater Amman Municipality (Petra).

ABU TALEB MEETS IRAQI TEAM: Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleb Wednesday received a visiting Iraqi military delegation led by Lieutenant-General Iyad Iftah Al Rawi and reviewed scopes of bilateral cooperation. Also Wednesday Abu Taleb's assistants received the commander of the Finnish armed forces and an accompanying delegation. The delegation visited the Martyr's Monument in Amman (Petra).

POLICE OFFICERS GRADUATE: A new batch of police officers from the Public Security Department's Special Brigade graduated Wednesday at a ceremony attended by the brigade commander Colonel Salman Maanah. The graduates heard speeches and then presented military exercises and performed sports activities. Later the graduates received their diplomas and awards from Manah (Petra).

VISITING HOURS FOR PATIENTS: The National Medical Institution (NMI) announced Wednesday that visits to patients at all government hospitals under its charge shall take place between three and five in the afternoon except Tuesdays when no visits are allowed. The announcement said that on public holidays and Fridays visits will be allowed between 10 in the morning and 12 noon. (Petra)

U.K. WOMEN TRAVEL EXECUTIVES: A group of 20 senior women executives representing the Association of Women Travel Executives (AWTE) in London Thursday end a week-long visit to Jordan. The group has been touring the ancient Nabatean city of Petra, the Greco-Roman city of Jerash, Amman, and the Dead Sea. The group, which contains representatives of the travel industry in the United Kingdom, has been invited by the Jordan Interline Club in its drive to encourage tourism in Jordan. The visit is the second of its kind to be organised by the club following one carried out in 1988. (J.T.)

Egypt to use computers on Aqaba-Nweibeh route

CAIRO (J.T.) — Egypt Wednesday announced its intention to boost the capacity of the Aqaba-Nweibeh land-sea route and said it was contemplating using computers to speed up routine work and formalities at the points of entry.

An announcement by the Egyptian Ministry of Transport here said that the measures are being considered in view of the growing demand on travel via the route which, it said, transported 2.5 million people and 150,000 vehicles of all sorts in the past four years of operations.

Passengers and vehicles are being transported from and to Nweibeh from the port city of

Aqaba aboard ferry boats operated jointly by Jordan and Egypt, the two countries, which originally initiated the route computers.

The expansion plan entails enlarging the port platform at Nweibeh which should allow for more ferry boats to enter and the construction of larger arrival and departure lounges for the benefit of the travellers, according to the statement.

It said that once computer systems are installed, time for procedures will be cut down and more travellers can be absorbed.

The land-sea route is now operated by Iraq, Jordan and Egypt through the newly established Maritime Bridge Company.

Traffic police to launch series of campaigns

AMMAN (Petra) — Police departments and traffic and patrol police will launch a series of campaigns between April 15 and 28 designed to stem violations of traffic regulations in Jordan, according to a statement issued Wednesday by the Public Security Department (PSD).

The announcement said that between April 15 and 19 there will be a wide scale campaign to stem violations of speed and of rules concerning priorities on the road, another campaign between April 20 and April 23 will focus on speeding motorists and reckless overtaking, a third campaign between April 24 and 26 will crack down on motorists who take wrong turns or drive opposite traffic directions, and a fourth campaign will be launched on April 27 and 28 against those who do not abide by traffic posters.

The statement noted that the series of campaigns will be held in observation of the International Traffic Day and the Arab Traffic Week, and following a wide-scale campaign launched in the media to spread awareness among members of the public about traffic rules and safety on the roads.

RSS to carry out studies on treated water

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The Royal Scientific Society (RSS) will carry out studies on the treated water coming out from the wastewater treatment plant at Khrbet Al Samra near Zarqa in a bid to recycle the water for other different purposes.

An agreement reached between the RSS and the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) Wednesday said that the former will conduct quality control studies on the treated water from the moment it leaves the plant at Khrbet Al Samra until it reaches the reservoir behind the King Talal Dam.

The outcome of the studies will enable decision-makers and planners to decide on the best means of using the treated water in different areas. The studies will also provide information on the type of water that is being stored behind the dam, which is normally used for irrigation in the Jordan Valley during the dry season.

According to the agreement, the cost of the study will be JD 38,321, and it will take one year to complete.

Soil saturation caused recent landslide — NRA

AMMAN (J.T.) — A major landslide, which occurred in an area in northern Jordan two days ago, was due to the saturation of the soil with great amounts of water, rendering the land loose and soft which triggered the landslide according to a report released by the Natural Resources Authority (NRA) Wednesday.

The landslide occurred at Jabal Dabous near the town of Ajloun causing extensive damage to agricultural lands and trees and destroying at least three homes, according to earlier reports.

The NRA report said that a team of geologists and engineers visited the area, inspected the soil at the site of the landslide, and found that the upper layers were covered with no less than 10 metres of mud with no supporting rocks, and that the land was covered by a network of canals to irrigate the fields, the fruit trees and vegetables.

Nearly 200 dunums of land grown with vegetables and crops, extending along 400 metres were hit by the landslide, considered the biggest in Jordan over the past few years, the report said.

The report called on the authorities to take speedy measures to drain away the water which is accumulating now at the low-lying area near the landslide site to avoid another slide.

The report denied that the

landslide was caused by an earth tremor.

The NRA issued a statement revealing that its Engineering and Geological Department has prepared a detailed study to provide planners, construction engineers, surveyors and geologists with data concerning soil and rock strata in Jordan.

The statement said that the study entailed preparation of geological maps, conducting geochemical surveys and studies concerning mineral resources aimed at collecting data about the nature of soil to benefit studies on earthquakes, building operations and other economic and industrial operations in the country.

The NRA announced that it is currently executing a long-term geological survey programme to cover all parts of the Kingdom to provide information on the land and its layers for planners of road and railway projects, water and sewerage networks and land use.

It said that NRA teams are conducting geological surveys in urban as well as rural regions and carrying out laboratory and field tests on samples of rocks and soil in the course of their work.

The NRA said that such studies and surveys would not doubt help deal with landslides, rifts and eventually reduce danger and material losses.

Government to issue new passports in 1990

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Department of Civil Registration and Passports will issue a new form of passports to Jordanian citizens as of the beginning of 1990 but there will be no increase in the fees according to the department Director Issa Al Omani.

The new passports will be smaller in form but will have 20 pages, Omani said in an interview published by Sawt Al Shaab daily earlier this month.

Unlike the current practice, the wife will have her own passport with her name and the name of her father and family before marriage written clearly under her photograph and the name of her husband mentioned on the other pages, Omani noted.

He said that the department has 43 branches operating outside the Kingdom in foreign countries and they can renew passports for Jordanians living abroad provided the applicants supplied the necessary documents.

Palestinians who have their permanent residence in the occupied territories and carry a green coloured card from the bridges authorities at the points of entry near the Jordan River can have their passports renewed for two years only while those with yellow coloured cards can obtain ordinary passports serving for five years, Omani explained.

He said that the normal fee for a passport is JD 20 whether the passport was issued for Palestinians or Jordanians or to those wishing to have a temporary passport.

He said that the foreign wife of a Jordanian can obtain a Jordanian passport after the lapse of five years following her marriage.

Omani also said that the government can deprive a Jordanian of his nationality if the person was found to be serving a hostile nation and refused to give up his jobs upon request from the Jordanian government, or if they commit a crime considered dangerous to the national security.

He said that JD 600,000 will be spent on the construction of a

huge complex for trucks commuting between Aqaba and other cities.

The project, which will be set up behind the ring road, is a joint venture by the municipality and the Aqaba Region Authority, Kabariti noted. He said that a JD 500,000 sum will finance the industrial and crafts zone south of the city of Aqaba, and JD 100,000 will be used to finance a

Khayyat: Ministry has taken all measures to facilitate pilgrimage

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat announced that the ministry has taken all necessary measures to facilitate the process for Muslims wishing to take part in the pilgrimage to the holy cities of Mecca and Medina, starting July 25.

Speaking at a press conference at the ministry Wednesday, Khayyat said ministry officials had met with the ministers of health, interior, tourism, transport in addition to officials from the Amman Municipality and the Customs Department, in order to facilitate the transportation and accommodation of pilgrims this year.

Khayyat said the ministry had exerted every effort not to increase the costs of travel and accommodation for pilgrimage this year. "But due to the Jordan dinar's new exchange rate against the Saudi riyal, the amount of money (in Saudi riyals) needed for pilgrimage has increased." He noted however that the amounts to be paid by pilgrims in Saudi riyals had not changed because the ministry was able to acquire reduced costs and fees for pilgrims.

The minister said ministry officials had met with representatives of the Central Bank of Jordan in order to facilitate the procedure for obtaining Saudi riyals by pilgrims.

Khayyat cited prices for pilgrimage tours as follows: JD 356 for Jordanian residents travelling by air-conditioned buses, JD 345 for non-air-conditioned buses and JD 282.5 for air travel. Muslims in Palestine lands travelled since 1948 will pay JD 365 for travel in air-conditioned buses, JD 355 for non-air-conditioned buses and JD 303.5 for air travel.

Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip will be treated as Jordanian residents, the minister noted.

Khayyat said the Saudi authorities usually allocate the maximum number of pilgrims allowed from various areas, and cited the following numbers as follows: 15,000 from the East and West Banks of Jordan, 4,300 pilgrims from pre-1948 Palestine and 1,000 pilgrims from the Gaza Strip.

Registration for pilgrims is open until May 20, Khayyat said, and urged all Muslims interested in attending the holy pilgrimage by air-conditioned buses, JD 346 for Jordanian residents travelling by non-air-conditioned buses, JD 294.5 for Jordanian residents travelling by air (air fare excluded), JD 354 for Jordanians residing in Arab countries wishing to travel by air-conditioned buses, JD 344 for Jordanian residents of Arab countries travelling by non-air-conditioned buses, and JD 284.5 for Jordanian residents of Arab countries wishing to travel by air (air fare excluded). Non-Jordanian Muslims would have to pay JD 352 to travel in air-conditioned buses, JD 342 in non-air-conditioned buses and JD 279.5 by air.

Residents of the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip and holding temporary Jordanian passports who wish to travel by air-conditioned

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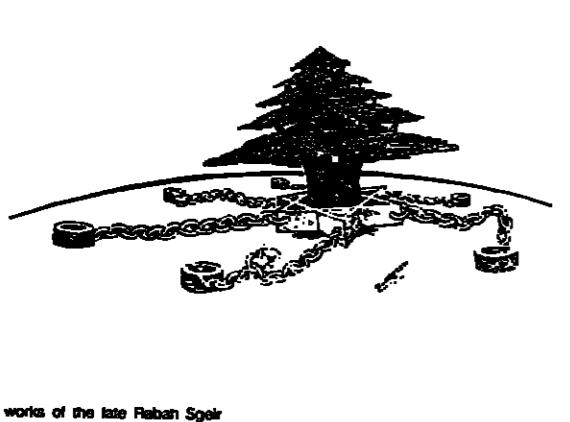
Good news

AS the prime ministers of the four-state Arab Cooperation Council concluded their Baghdad meeting to put more flesh on the ACC skeleto, their formation has received yet another vote of confidence, this time from Sudan which has just proclaimed through its foreign minister its readiness to apply for membership to the ACC as soon as possible. By opting to join the ACC, Sudan has registered its confidence that the path of the council is in complete harmony with the aspirations and goals of other Arab countries which have yet to choose membership in one of the existing three Arab unity schemes.

With Egypt a founding member of the ACC it would be natural and logical for Sudan to choose the ACC in view of the geographic proximity of Sudan to Egypt. Yet the most important thing is to have Sudan and the rest of the Arab states which remain outside the orbit of the prevailing three Arab unions become members of one or the other of these Arab groupings. Thus, while it would be an honour for the ACC to gain additional Arab memberships, its honour would likewise be served by having the rest of the Arab states join one or the other Arab unions.

Considering the fact that the ACC is just two months young, it is amazing how much work has been done already to make it operational and dynamic. That reflects the seriousness with which the four concerned Arab countries take their newly formed council. With such an attitude and political will, one would expect the ACC to receive continuous support that would bolster its course and fortify its confidence. With Sudan already signalling its choice in favour of the ACC, the council has no way to go except full speed ahead.

And now that the prime ministers of the four Arab countries have finalised their discussions on the ACC organisational, statute, financial and administrative structures and its general secretariat, one would expect the ACC to be in full operation in the course of the next few months and ready to receive new Arab members. In this vein one hope that Sudan would feel ready to join the ACC in the shortest possible time.



... from works of the late Rabah Sfar

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i daily newspaper on Wednesday described as ugly Zionist crime the assassination of an innocent Palestinian youth in the city of Jerusalem. The assassination is another facet of Israel's official policy of terrorism exercised against the Arab population of Palestine, the paper noted. It said that the killing of the Arab youth by Israeli troops is one form of encouragement the Israelis are giving to the Zionist settlers who roam the country killing Arabs and destroying Arab property. To conceal their crime the Israelis are now trying to shift the blame for the killing on Palestinian youth and for that purpose they are launching a wave of arrests in the Arab city of Jerusalem, the paper pointed out. Moreover, the paper added, the Israelis are exploiting the incident for their own benefit by claiming that demonstrations following Friday prayers at Al Aqsa Mosque would be banned completely so as to put an end to assassinations. What is happening in Arab Jerusalem is an expression of Zionist terrorism and this should be confronted by a very strict and drastic measure on the part of the international community.

Al Dustour daily commented on the ongoing talks in Baghdad between the prime ministers of the four Arab Cooperation Council countries. The meetings are designed to achieve the best economic progress for the four countries and their people, as part of the pan-Arab drive to attain integration among the Arab countries at large, the paper noted. It said that the desire to fulfill the dream of the Arab masses in unifying their countries into one Arab Nation is motivating the four countries leaders to pursue their task with diligence and perseverance. Indeed the Arab masses attach great hopes to these meetings and hope that the four countries will contribute towards the achievement of the long sought unity, the paper added. It said that whatever achievements and progress to be realized through the Baghdad meetings will have their beneficial effect on the long march towards the fulfillment of the Arab masses aspirations.

Sawt Al Shaab daily also tackled the Baghdad meetings in its editorial on Wednesday. The prime ministers' optimism about the excellent outcome of the meeting, said the paper, is justified since all indications point to all-out agreement on future steps to be taken to implement the principles and achieve the objectives of the Arab Cooperation Council. The meetings in Baghdad are part of the ongoing process of integration; and therefore they are being looked on by the Arab masses as one link in the long chain of activities that would ultimately lead to unity among the Arabs, the paper added. The four prime ministers meeting in Baghdad, the paper said, are charting plans for the Arab Nation's continued growth and determined march towards progress and prosperity.

Recruit scandal tests Japan political system

By Graham Earnshaw
Reuter

TOKYO — Japan's developing political crisis is turning into a major test of the cohesiveness of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party and the power of the opposition.

The so-called Recruit affair has ballooned into the country's biggest political scandal, threatening the present government and giving the opposition its best shot at toppling the LDP in more than 30 years.

At centre stage is Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, who has spent much of the past six months rejecting opposition demands that he resign or call a general election over the scandal.

The Recruit publishing and telecommunications group hand-

ed out huge amounts of money to politicians and other public figures in the mid-1980s to fuel its expansion. Three cabinet ministers have resigned and 13 people have so far been arrested as a result.

In the past week revelations in the media that Takeshita's political support group received donations worth at least 130 million yen (\$1 million) from Recruit in 1986 and 1987 has strengthened the impression that his days are numbered.

Political analysts now speculate not so much about whether he will step down, but when.

Some LDP members of parliament are saying there is a need to get rid of Takeshita to prevent a bloodbath in forthcoming local and national elections.

That, added to opposition demands for his removal and plum-

meting public opinion ratings, leaves Takeshita very little room for manoeuvre.

One theory has it that he may be eased out as early as May, after his scheduled trip to south-east Asia from April 29 to May 7.

"With that diplomatic triumph behind him, the LDP could give Takeshita a standing ovation as he heads for the exit," said Tokyo University professor Takashi Inoguchi.

But Takeshita has proved himself to be tenacious and there are powerful reasons why he may not step down so quickly:

— There is no obvious successor within the LDP.

— Most of the top leadership is tainted with the Recruit brush as Takeshita himself and there may be a shortage of eligible candidates wanting the job at this time.

This year's budget has been stalled in parliament for over a month. A new prime minister would have to start the whole budget process from scratch.

If he is forced out, the end of Takeshita does not mean the end of the LDP.

The scandal has given the opposition its best shot at the LDP in years but political analysts say the opposition has little chance of beating the ruling party in power for the past 34 years.

The opposition does not have much unity, they are not ready (to form a government), they are not serious," said Inoguchi.

Public approval of the LDP has plummeted to an all-time low as a result of the scandal and the introduction this month of an unpopular sales tax.

But support for the opposition parties has hardly budged,

links to Recruit.

The opposition's most important hostage is the 1989-90 budget. That has to be passed by April 21 or a supplementary budget will be needed to keep the government supplied with cash.

The LDP has threatened to pass the budget in spite of the opposition's parliamentary boycott — it has a majority in both houses of parliament and could easily do so.

Under Japanese-style democracy, there is a virtual taboo on the government steam-rolling bills through parliament. It must rather seek a degree of consensus with the opposition first.

There have been a few cases since the war where the government has pushed the budget through in defiance of the opposition, but it has usually led to a change in government.

Neglect of voters may topple Kohl

By Mark Heinrich
Reuter

BONN — For years Chancellor Helmut Kohl and his loose "coalition of the middle" rode West Germany's wave of prosperity, but political analysts say that neglected tensions below the surface now jeopardise his government.

Chronic infighting within the coalition, they say, distracted serious attention from festering grievances of voters until they drove their point home in two regional elections this year.

Many traditional backers of Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU) are defecting to rightist parties in anger over Bonn's inability to stop a flood of foreign refugees coming to West Germany.

Meanwhile, the opposition left — Social Democrats (SPD) and Greens — is gaining strength from a Soviet arms control campaign that challenges the conventional CDU view of the East bloc as a security threat.

In both elections, the far right Republicans and the neo-Nazi National Democrats (NPD) catapulted to parliamentary representation with 7.5 and 6.6 per cent of the vote, respectively. The two outpolled Kohl's ruling partner in Bonn, the Liberal Free Democrats (FDP).

Opinion surveys suggest the

CDU decline continues in the June elections, Kohl could face an internal revolt and lose his party chairmanship before the 1990 elections.

"But he got to the top by being

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His dull exterior should not

obscure the fact that his enemies

usefully underestimate him. He's

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Kohl has been criticised

throughout his tenure for his lack

of charisma, his meandering

speaking style and his habit of

giving cabinet posts to untried

outsiders who pose no political

threat to him.

An Infas survey released last

week said 65 per cent of people in

a representative poll answered

step-by-step approach no longer does the job."

The CDU was voted out of office in state elections in West Berlin in January, then was hammered in communal voting in Hesse state a month ago, losing control of city hall in the country's financial capital, Frankfurt.

The SPD and Greens were able

to form a governing coalition in

West Berlin and were expected to

do so in Frankfurt too.

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threat to him.

An Infas survey released last

week said 65 per cent of people in

a representative poll answered

"no" when asked whether Kohl was a good chancellor, 23 said "yes" and remainder gave no opinion. Infas said Kohl's personal standing was at its worst since he took office six-and-a-half years ago.

The chancellor has never been able to quiet public wrangling between FDP and CDU party officials over important policy matters ranging from asylum-seeking refugees to NATO missile modernisation, relations with the Soviet bloc, and tax reform.

Public anger over the pressure of hundreds of thousands of East Bloc and Third World immigrants on the tight housing and job market has been brewing for several years.

But the FDP has blocked CDU attempts to toughen open-door political asylum law, leaving Kohl with little alternative but piecemeal measures such as visa rules.

In security affairs, Kohl has backed a continued heavy NATO presence in West Germany but the public wonders why unilateral Soviet disarmament is not being reciprocated in the West.

Most West Germans oppose the proposed modernisation of NATO's nuclear missiles, but Kohl's coalition is divided.

"The government's inability to market its policies to the public is the major problem," said pollster Tacke in a comment echoed by many experts. "The policy profile just isn't there."

Freed dissident tries to adjust to non-political life

By Kathy Wilhelm
The Associated Press

BELING — Yang Jing's hands quivered as the dissident tried to adjust to the strangeness of just sitting in a coffee shop and talking. He had been released from prison three days earlier.

The chancery has never been able to quiet public wrangling between FDP and CDU party officials over important policy matters ranging from asylum-seeking refugees to NATO missile modernisation, relations with the Soviet bloc, and tax reform.

"I'm not used to it," he said with a shy smile as he chain-smoked.

Yang, 42, was arrested April 8, 1981, at a friend's house discussing ways to stop officials from shutting down the April Fifth Forum — one of the most widely known underground journals of the 1978-79 Democracy Wall Movement.

He was accused of spying and sentenced to eight years at Beijing's no. 1 prison, where for 10 months he was confined to a 2-metre-square cell.

On April 8, eight years later to the day, he returned to his family, including an 8-year-old son born after his arrest. His wife had told the youngster his father was on a research project at the South Pole.

It is a fractured family, Yang said on April 10. His father died in February and one brother has not forgiven him for being imprisoned and refused to come to his welcome-home dinner.

Yang, in an interview with the Associated Press, said his goal now is to rebuild his life without politics or controversy. Although he has completed his prison term, his political rights remain suspended for three years.

"I will try to live quietly, maybe painting," he said. "I want to take care of my health."

Yang said his muscles have wasted away and he lost at least 10 pounds while in jail. His tan slacks and blue worker's jacket, saved from when he went to prison, were loose on his slight frame.

Yang left behind in the no. 1 prison another editor of the April Fifth Forum, Xu Wenli, who was arrested two days after Yang and sentenced to 15 years. Xu has been kept apart from most of the other prisoners and barred from having visitors since 1985.

A third editor of the monthly journal, Liu Qing, is scheduled to be released from a jail in north-central China in November.

The group began publishing the April Fifth Forum in their homes during the Democracy

and jail and how to escape from jail," Yang said with a wide grin.

What is Solidarity?

By John Damishevski
The Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland — "There is no freedom without Solidarity." The slogan has been shouted at rallies and marches throughout Poland since 1981, when martial law crushed the East bloc's first independent trade union.

EN BREF

Visite éclair de M. Moubarak à Amman

Le président égyptien Hosni Moubarak s'est entretenu mercredi après-midi avec le roi Hussein avant le départ de ce dernier, lundi prochain, pour les Etats-Unis. Les deux chefs d'Etat souhaitaient faire le point sur la rencontre d'Hosni Moubarak et du président américain George Bush, le 3 avril dernier à Washington, pour coordonner leurs positions respectives vis-à-vis du processus de paix au Proche-Orient. Comme le président Moubarak, le roi Hussein soutiendra vraisemblablement le dialogue entamé par l'administration américaine avec l'OLP, lors de sa visite officielle à la Maison Blanche.

Première bourse

Michel Seurat

La première «bourse Michel Seurat», créée à la mémoire du chercheur français mort lors de sa détenzione au Liban, vient d'être attribuée à Claude Guyomarch, étudiant français à l'Institut d'études politiques de Paris. Crée par le Centre national de la recherche scientifique, la bourse, d'un montant de 100.000 francs (environ 16.000 dollars) récompense un jeune chercheur français ou ressortissant d'un pays du Proche-Orient dont la recherche contribue «à promouvoir la connaissance réciproque entre la société française et le monde arabe».

Accident d'un Fokker 27 en France: aucun survivant

Un Fokker 27 de la compagnie française Europe Aero Service (AES) reliant Paris à Valence s'est écrasé lundi soir au dessus du plateau du Vercors, dans le sud-est de la France. L'avion transportait 22 passagers dont trois enfants et trois membres d'équipage. Ils ont tous trouvé la mort dans cet accident dont les causes restent inconnues.

Réponse aux «Versets sataniques»

Un professeur indien musulman, enseignant l'Islam, a publié jeudi dernier un livre, qu'il souhaite vendre dans le monde entier pour riposter au roman controversé de Salman Rushdie, «Les Versets sataniques». M. Majid Ali Khan a présenté son livre, intitulé «Les Versets sacrés», au cours d'une cérémonie, en présence des ministres indiens, de diplomates de pays islamiques, et de chefs de la résistance afghane, installés à New-Delhi. L'auteur a déclaré vouloir vendre son livre à prix réduit aux organisations islamiques, «condition qu'elles le distribuent pour mener une campagne contre l'ouvrage de l'écrivain britannique Salman Rushdie.

Chypre et Syrie sans visa

Les Chypriotes sont désormais dispensés d'un visa préalable pour entrer en Syrie et les Syriens pour se rendre à Chypre. Cette décision a été arrêtée par les ministres de l'Intérieur des deux pays, MM. Mohammad Harba (Syrie) et Christodoulos Veniamin (Chypre), lors d'une récente visite de ce dernier à Damas. L'accord prévoit que les ressortissants des deux pays obtiendront un visa en se présentant aux services d'immigration à leur arrivée à l'un des postes frontières.

La France envoie 30 tonnes de nourriture à Djibouti

La France a envoyé lundi par avion 30 tonnes de nourriture à Djibouti, sinistrée par les inondations provoquées par des pluies incessantes. Rendant à la demande des autorités djiboutiennes, la France a mis en place, dès dimanche, un dispositif d'aide d'urgence: envoi de 20 motopropulseurs, de vivres, de tentes et de couvertures, ainsi qu'un détachement de 21 marins et sapeurs pompiers. Pour réduire sans défaire le niveau des eaux, la ville de Djibouti a été divisée en quatre secteurs, permettant, par le creusement de canaux appropriés, de faciliter l'accès aux points vitaux de la ville, en particulier à l'hôpital.

La montre la plus chère du monde

La montre «Calibre 89» de l'horloger genevois Patek Philippe a été adjugée aux enchères pour la somme record de 4,5 millions de francs suisses (2,725 millions de dollars). L'acquéreur de cette montre unique, qui passait pour la première fois en vente, est un Sud-Américain. La «Calibre 89», dont la conception et la réalisation ont nécessité 9 ans de travail, comprend 1728 pièces et offre 33 fonctions différentes, dont le jeu de plaques et une carte céleste permettant de distinguer 2800 étoiles.

Arrivée des navires français au Liban

Feu vert de Salim Hoss

Le gouvernement pro-syrien de Salim Hoss a finalement accepté mercredi soir l'accostage des deux bâtiments français chargés d'une mission humanitaire au Liban. L'accord intervint quelques heures après l'intervention directe du président François Mitterrand. Le chef de l'Etat français a solennellement réaffirmé que l'aide de l'Hexagone était destinée à «tous les Libanais».

Le navire-hôpital «La Rance» et le pétrolier «Penhors», chargés par la France d'une mission humanitaire au Liban devaient accoster hier soir dans le port de Beyrouth. Jusqu'au milieu de l'après-midi, la situation semblait devoir rester bloquée, en raison des mises en garde adressées par la Syrie et le gouvernement Hoss aux deux bâtiments, s'ils tentaient d'entrer dans le secteur chrétien de la capitale libanaise.

Repondant aux accusations des alliés de Damas, qui estimaient que la France démontait dans cette opération sa «partialité» en faveur de la communauté chrétienne, François Mitterrand a déclaré que Paris «est et veut demeurer l'ami de tous les Libanais, quelle que soit leur confession ou leur communauté». Des propos bien accueillis par le leader musulman, qui s'est dit satisfait des assurances données par le chef de l'Etat français.

Le «malentendu» entre Salim Hoss et Paris s'était fait jour dès l'appareillage des deux navires, vendredi dernier. Trois jours plus tard, son cabinet accentuait sa pression en soulignant dans un communiqué les «dangers» d'une telle entreprise, «dont le moindre serait de conduire à une dégradation d'une situation relativement calme.» L'avertissement devait être ponctué peu après de tirs d'obus en direction du littoral chrétien et du port de Beyrouth où étaient attendus les navires français.

Dépêché sur place dès mardi,

FMI

Nouveau crédit pour Amman

Amman et le FMI doivent si- ger dans les prochaines jours un protocole qui mettra un terme aux négociations entamées le 28 mars. La Jordanie semble avoir obtenu gain de cause sur les principaux points étudiés: le FMI approuve le principe d'un rééchelonnement de la dette extérieure (estimée à 6,5 milliards de dollars), et accorde à la Jordanie un crédit pour l'aider à s'acquitter de ses engagements financiers.

Amman espérait obtenir un prêt de 150 millions de dollars, mais le montant exact du crédit consenti n'a pas encore été rendu public. En contrepartie de cette double assistance, la Jordanie devra équilibrer en cinq ans, sa balance des paiements, qui a enregistré un «déficit» de 200 millions de dollars en 1988. Pour ce faire, le pays doit développer ses ressources et notamment des exportations.

En revanche, le FMI n'a exigé

le secrétaire d'Etat à l'aide humanitaire, Bernard Kouchner, devait rencontrer Salim Hoss et son rival chrétien, le général Aoun. Reconnaissant à la fin de ces entretiens, qu'un «bon nombre» de points concrets entraient l'arrivée de l'aide française, M. Kouchner devait annoncer l'immobilisation des deux bâtiments.

Dans le même temps, Paris renouvelait sa confiance dans les efforts de la Ligue arabe pour relancer le dialogue entre les parties libanaises en conflit. Confiance également mise en doute par les Syriens et leurs alliés de Beyrouth.

La semaine dernière, le ministre français des affaires étrangères, Roland Dumas, avait réitéré la demande française de «retirat des troupes non libanaises» du Liban. Cette politique, qui écarte pour l'heure l'hypothèse d'une internationalisation de la solution de conflit, arrive à point nommé pour déjouer les réactions syriennes. La presse de Damas a, en effet, accusé la France de «menier une campagne fallacieuse, hostile à la Syrie» et estimé que Paris «devrait tirer les enseignements de l'affaire des forces multinationales» au Liban. «L'affaire» en question remonte au 23 octobre 1983, jour où un camion bourré d'explosifs avait percuté l'immeuble du contingent français de la force multinationale au Liban, à Beyrouth ouest, causant la mort de 58 parachutistes.

La France joue donc la carte de la Ligue arabe, et n'envisage la saisine du Conseil de sécurité de l'ONU qu'en cas d'échec des démarches régionales. Démarches qui ont repris dès hier avec la réunion du Comité des bons offices de la Ligue arabe, à Koweït. Ce comité comprend notamment une délégation du Front libanais, qui regroupe les dirigeants politiques du «camp chrétien.» (D'après agences).

Le départ de l'ambassadeur de France

«Une expérience très positive»

Ambassadeur de France en Jordanie depuis juin 1985, M. Patrick Leclercq vient d'être nommé directeur du département Afrique du Nord et Moyen-Orient au ministère des Affaires étrangères à Paris. Avant son départ pour la France, le 16 avril, il évoque pour Le Jourdain son séjour dans le royaume hachémite.

Le Jourdain: Quelle appréciation portez-vous sur votre expérience diplomatique en Jordanie?

Patrick Leclercq: Très positive. La Jordanie offre aux diplomates un accès facile aux plus hauts responsables de l'Etat. Cette particularité permet d'entretenir un dialogue soutenu et intéressant. D'aussi étroites relations se révèlent beaucoup moins évidentes dans d'autres pays de la région. L'ambassade de France bénéficie également de l'excellente compréhension mutuelle entre Paris et Amman.

L. J.: Quel rôle y joue la Jordanie?

P. L.: Un rôle très actif, qu'il illustre la grande activité diplomatique développée par le roi Hussein, notamment pour renforcer la solidarité arabe. La Jordanie fait des efforts importants pour amener la Syrie et l'Irak, ou encore la Syrie et le Liban, au dialogue. N'oubliez pas que c'est à Amman que s'est tenu en novembre 1987 un sommet réunissant tous les pays arabes, pour la première fois depuis plusieurs années.

L. J.: La situation de la Jordanie, au confluent des conflits du Proche-Orient, fait-elle de ce pays un bon observatoire de la région?

P. L.: Certainement. Les positions géographique et politique de la Jordanie m'ont mis en mesure d'être informé au delà du cadre même de ce pays. Cette situation privilégiée permet d'avoir une vue générale des choses. Le fait que je sois appelé désormais à exercer des responsabilités pour l'ensemble de la région n'est sans doute pas étranger.

L. J.: Quels souvenirs garderez-vous de la Jordanie?

P. L.: Ils ont été et restent bons. Voyez, par exemple, la coopération archéologique. Depuis une dizaine d'années, notre Institut d'archéologie au Proche-Orient, basé à Beyrouth, maintient une antenne à Amman. La présence permanente de chercheurs fran-



M. Patrick Leclercq

cais et la fréquence des missions temporaires alimentent un courant d'échanges tout à fait remarquable. La récente installation du Centre d'études et de recherches sur le Moyen-Orient contemporain à Amman laisse présager un renforcement de la coopération scientifique et intellectuelle entre les deux pays. Le centre culturel français est également très actif.

L. J.: Et la francophonie?

P. L.: Nous sommes présents à la télévision, dans les universités, les écoles privées, où environ 15.000 jeunes Jordaniens apprennent le français. Le principal obstacle au développement de la francophonie demeure notre absence des écoles publiques. Obstacle que permettra peut-être de franchir dès la rentrée prochaine la première promotion d'étudiants en français, formés par la faculté et destinés à l'enseignement.

L. J.: Quels souvenirs garderez-vous de la Jordanie?

P. L.: D'abord le souvenir d'un pays accueillant et attachant. Celui, ensuite, de superbes paysages et d'un patrimoine très riche, que ni moi épouse ni moi ne sommes prêts d'oublier.

Propos recueillis par Alain Renon.

Les propositions de M. Shamir aux USA

Non catégorique de l'OLP

L'OLP a rejeté dès vendredi dernier par la voix de Yasser Arafat, puis, lundi, par l'intermédiaire d'un porte-parole officiel à Tunis, les propositions d'Izzah Shamir en faveur d'élections dans les territoires occupés, sabordées à l'arrêt du soulèvement palestinien.

Dans les territoires occupés, les organisations palestiniennes ont été également négatives, les journaux arabes dénonçant depuis vendredi toute tentative de mise sur la touche de l'OLP. Malgré le soutien appuyé des Etats-Unis au premier ministre israélien, la presse palestinienne souligne que la diplomatie arabe doit poursuivre son effort en faveur d'une conférence internationale de paix au Proche-Orient.

Un représentant officiel de l'OLP à Tunis a estimé en début de semaine que «le plan Shamir

[n'était] qu'une réédition du projet d'autonomie administrative des accords de Camp David.» Il a également rappelé que l'organisation palestinienne avait toujours été opposée à tout scrutin «à l'ombre de l'occupation israélienne.»

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Un représentant officiel de l'OLP à Tunis a estimé en début de semaine que «le plan Shamir

PARENTHÈSE

Un berger égocentrique

J'ai entendu le chant d'un berger:
Je suis le fils du soleil,
Je suis orage, je suis marin,
Je suis le chant des cigales, les larmes des poètes,
Je suis le gardien de la ville,
Je suis un tremblement de terre,
Je suis terre et lumière, rêve des palmiers du désert,
Je suis une blessure amère,
Je suis la nuit noire qui fait naître les aurores roses,
Je suis les chemins qui ne mènent pas partout.

Je suis, moi, la joie d'une heure échappée des nuages.
Le berger avait alors abandonné son troupeau, marchant seul dans la forêt noire.

Faigal Al-Zuraigat

Vous aussi, vous écrivez? Le Jourdain recherche des collaborateurs en freelance. Idées originales d'enquêtes et de reportages, poésies ... Contacter Alain Renon, Jordan Times, 667171.

SORTIR

Ramadan: vive la nuit



Sourire aux lèvres, cigarette dans une main, shawarma ou glace à l'Italienne dans l'autre, les habitants d'Amman envoient chaque soir les rues de la ville. En famille, en bandes ou seuls. Dès 19h30, iftar, le repas du soir, avalé, c'est l'heure de la promenade et du lèche-vitrine qui commence. Pendant le Ramadan, Amman vit la nuit. Quartiers les plus animés: Djebel Hussein et, bien sûr, la Ville Basse. Tout autour du cercle Firda, les boutiques et les cafés sont ouverts jusqu'à minuit. Sur la place Hashemi, véritable Agora d'une mois pas comme les autres, on marche en discutant. Un groupe se forme autour d'un joueur de flûte, quelqu'un esquisse un pas de danse et la soirée devient fête. De quoi vous donner envie de vivre le Ramadan toute l'année...

FIGURE

Aux sources de la peinture



Fi du pinceau. A l'instar de nos lointains ancêtres de la Préhistoire, Jean-François Noble préconise la peinture à la main. S'inspirant de leurs techniques picturales, il imprègne ses doigts et ses paumes de couleurs. La main, à la fois palette et pinceau, sillonne la toile, laissant empreintes et traces comme autant de présences enchevêtrées. Ses tableaux mêlent figuratif, abstraction... et gigantisme, offrant à celui qui les observe le choix de l'interprétation.

S'il puise une partie de son inspiration dans ce retour aux sources de la peinture, Jean-François Noble ne se coupe cependant pas des préoccupations contemporaines. Il a simplement choisi de les exprimer dans

un rapport direct entre la peau, la gomme et le support. Présenté pour la première fois en Jordanie, l'œuvre de ce jeune peintre a déjà voyagé dans plusieurs pays européens, notamment en Belgique et en Allemagne fédérale.

Parallèlement à cette exposition, installée dans les jardins du Haya Arts Centre, Jean-François Noble anime un atelier pour les enfants de 6 à 11 ans, qu'il initie à la peinture à la main.

L'exposition et l'atelier seront ouverts au public du 19 au 27 avril inclus. Jardins du Haya Arts Centre, Tous les jours de 20h30 à 23h00. Renseignements pour les inscriptions à l'atelier pour enfants au CCF (Tél: 637009).

A L'AFFICHE

CINEMA

La belle équipe

De Julien Duvivier, avec Jean Gabin, Viviane Romance, Charles Vanel et Raymond Cordy (1936). Un petit groupe d'ouvriers, victimes du chômage dans les années 30, affrontent les difficultés de la vie quotidienne. Désœuvrés mais amis inseparables, ils tentent leur chance à la loterie nationale... et décrochent le gros lot. Une somme farfelue qu'ils décident d'investir dans une guinguette...

CCF, lundi 17 avril à 20h30 (en français, sous-titré en arabe).

Alain Renon.

«Le 19: To kill a mocking bird et The machine

Film en version originale. Tel: 603901. Route de l'université, à droite après l'hôtel Jérusalem puis première à gauche, 300 m.

CONFERENCE

Bible et histoire

Réflexion et débat sur les origines de l'Etat Hébreu, par

Scanning Afghanistan

U.N. expeditions have been examining the war-battered regions of Afghanistan to assess damage and suggest remedies.

By Annick Billard

GENEVA — A detailed study of the conditions in war-torn Afghanistan is being carried out in a United Nations-sponsored operation aimed at the eventual reparation of refugees.

Since the U.N. launched its programme of humanitarian and economic assistance in May 1988, teams of experts have fanned out in parts of Afghanistan to survey damage and suggest reconstruction and restoration work.

Six missions have gone into the affected areas to examine the state of agricultural production, communications, transport, and the extent of damage to buildings.

It is an unprecedented effort; never before has the United Nations sent exploratory missions on such a large scale to a country still in the grip of war. The missions took place in extremely difficult conditions, resulting in the deaths of an Afghan national looking after horses as well as several of the animals. The men and women on U.N. duties braved tough winter conditions in journeys over hundreds of kilometres. Trucks, cars, donkeys and horses were used to negotiate battered tracks; in some cases the U.N. experts, accompanied by Afghan guides, simply walked.

The U.N. High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) played a key role in all six Salam expeditions. Afghan guides helped the teams with the dangerous task of avoiding minefields, spotting the ruins and drawing attention to critical needs.

The operations Salam 1 and Salam 2 started from the Iranian border and Kabul respectively and focused on the Herat region.

Salam 3, the longest of all the missions, traversed the northeast, including the city of Bamyan, as well as the south. Salam 4 should also have gone to the Panjshir but could not get there as it was stopped on the way by a group of armed men. Salam 5 and 6, setting out from Peshawar, Pakistan, went to the Kunar valley and the province of Paktia.

The expeditions found evidence of massive damage and destruction along their routes, although stability had returned to some of the areas examined.

to put down their roots again. Families were seen rebuilding shattered houses, restoring wells blocked by stones and gravel, hoeing fields. The essential purpose of the exploratory operation was to identify the most urgent needs and to assess the possibilities of resettlement of refugees and displaced persons. Each mission therefore submitted to its coordinator its observations and recommended priorities.

The first problem obviously is security. Even if the fighting stops, a large part of the country is still peppered with minefields and stray shells. The removal of mines therefore is essential to the return of the inhabitants.

Another problem is secure transportation; the highway infrastructure is in such a poor state that road accidents are a major risk.

Moving large numbers of women, children and older persons is not only difficult, it is also dangerous.

The poor infrastructure means that food supply and rehabilitation assistance cannot easily reach newly opened areas. The only usable routes are the main roads from Pakistan, Iran and the Soviet Union. This will severely limit the number of entry points for relief convoys. The returnees and displaced persons will all need international aid. The immediate priority will be food. The U.N. personnel believe that the food shortages could get worse and affect the whole country.

Although wheat is under cultivation in some areas at up to 3,500 metres above sea level, the crop yields are insufficient. Returning farmers need seeds, equipment and livestock to resume their lives.

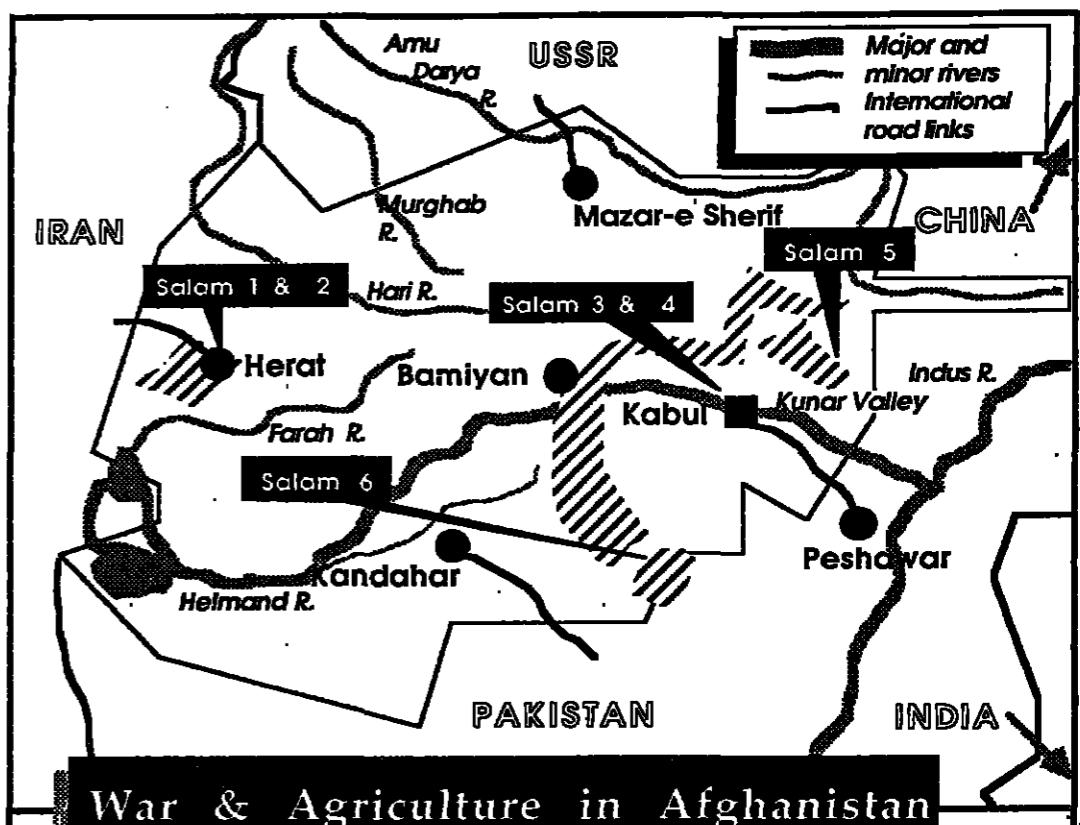
On the plus side, however, the economic and social organisation of the Afghan communities remains strong. Herat, for example, has retained a well-structured organisation which should assist reconstruction once the fighting stops.

The traditional values of the Afghan also have survived through the war. Although there is widespread poverty, there is no destitution or undernourishment on the scale found in other areas of conflict.

But, even as the Salam missions were able to collect considerable data, more detailed analyses will be needed by technical specialists for a coordinated reconstruction and repatriation programme. But these must await the return of peace to Afghanistan — Academic File...



Afghan refugees in Peshawar, Pakistan.



War & Agriculture in Afghanistan

	1978	1980	1985	1986	1987
Farmers reporting					
Destruction of irrigation systems	22	679	1,255	1,035	5,997
Burning of crops	2	194	583	434	207
Bombing of village	12	1,178	2,741	1,961	1,135
Destruction of grain store	10	343	696	524	140
Summary shooting of livestock	2	488	1,165	682	314
Loss of livestock to mines	4	97	331	259	110

Sources: UNHCR & The Agricultural Survey of Afghanistan

© Academic File

Kenya's Harambee system pays for self-help projects

By David Ress
Reuters

NAIROBI — In Kenya, when people want a new school, a hospital ward or just to send a child away to school, they throw a party and ask guests to stump up the money.

They call it Harambee — swahili for "pulling together".

The event usually features a lot of oratory, maybe a raffle of goats or chickens, a chance to catch up on gossip.

As Nairobi office worker Nelly Mwanza explained at a recent Harambee, the custom is part of the glue that holds Kenyan society together, a symbol of Kenyan nationalism since independence in 1963. Kenya's motto is "harambee".

"You don't have to go and give, but next time if you're the one who's needing some help, there may be nobody around to offer any," she said, when asked why she had come to raise money for a hospital.

The event usually features a lot of oratory, maybe a raffle of goats or chickens, a chance to catch up on gossip.

"We have had differences at district development committee meetings because I want to know how money for... various projects has been utilised," he told parliament.

A lot of money — and a lot of politically valuable services — can be at issue. In Kenya, the need for schools and hospitals and other public facilities far outstrips the government's funding ability.

In March alone, Harambees reported in Kenyan newspapers raised a total of \$3.4 million mainly for schools. Dozens more were not reported.

Sometimes, it gets to be a little too much," she said.

In fact, some Kenyans believe a worrying element of compulsion is creeping into the system.

A member of parliament from western Kenya, Sammy Muhami, complained that officials and chiefs in his area were taking chickens for Harambees from poor farmers who wanted to make their donations in cash.

The chickens are often raffled for more than the farmer would be expected to give in cash, Muhami said.

Some Kenyans are upset by such reports, saying Harambees are supposed to be a relatively painless way of raising money, because they are meant to be voluntary and fun.

Harambees are a major part of Kenya's social and political life. Politicians often host them and give large sums.

In the last week of March, President Daniel Arap Moi gave a total of \$45,500 while Vice President Josephat Karijala gave \$2,100.

These donations are often in the name of a politician "and friends". Kenyans say making a donation to a politician to be given in turn at a Harambee is a way of cementing relations and in

providing for a wide variety of basic needs," the government said in its latest development plan.

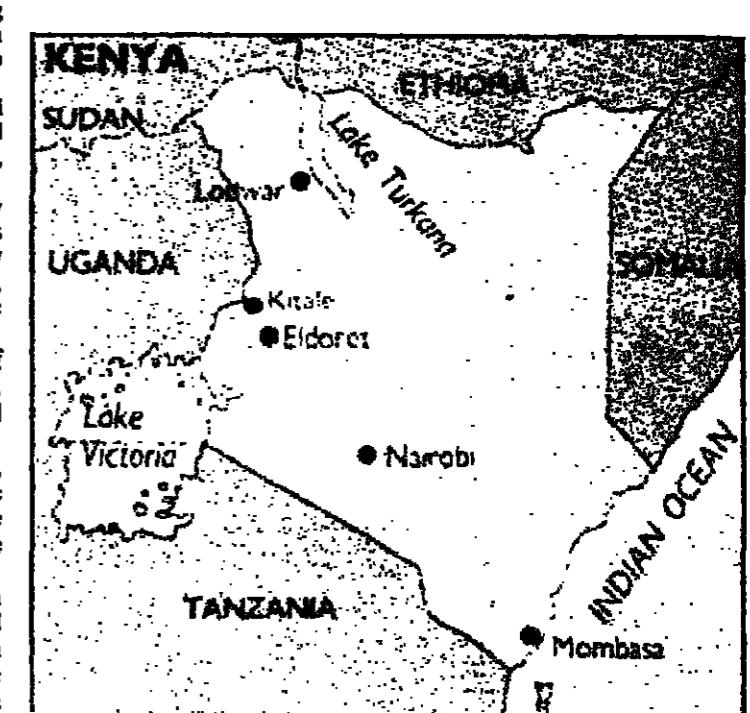
Kenya is moving to audit Harambee funds and their use. Harambees have built dozens of rural schools and hospital wards, and in 1984, the last year for which national statistics are available, accounted for just under four per cent. Equal to about \$27 million, of total capital investment.

The continuing squeeze on government finance means the pressure is on to raise more and more money through Harambees, among friends, within villages, whole districts or even on a nationwide basis.

Any Harambee much bigger than within a village is probably forced... it becomes a kind of tax," said one Nairobi accountant.

"Forced Harambees have become a permanent feature in some areas," complained Mwakoma Wa Wadia, of Mombasa, in a letter to the daily Nation newspaper.

"I witnessed a very ugly incident... at Mikindani in Mombasa west where Kann (Kenya African National Union, the ruling party) youthwingers went from Kiosks to Kiosks demanding \$2.00 from women traders for the Harambee for the disabled," he said.



In 1932 Bugatti built only 32 units of its famous model 55 sports roadster. A French expert car lover, Xavier de la Chapelle has

rebuilt the car above at a cost of \$50,000.

Powered by a BMW motor it can reach a speed of 150 kph now.

Bugatti relaunched in heart of Italian racing country

By Jill Serjeant
Reuters

ROME — In the heart of Italian racing car country, a motoring legend is being relaunched.

An all-new Bugatti, rivaling the technical expertise, style and cost of the cars Italian designer Ettore Bugatti built mainly for royalty in the 1930s is nearing completion in Modena and orders are already flooding in.

The prototype Bugatti, powered by a 3.5-litre, 525 horsepower, 12-cylinder engine, will be ready by December.

Production, to be limited to 100 cars a year, is expected to start next year, said technical Director Paolo Stanzani.

It will combine performance worthy of a formula one grand prix racing car with the comfort of a luxury saloon. And, although the body has yet to be designed, Stanzani has firm ideas about what the car will look like.

"It will be low and aggressive... it must maintain the flavour of an elegant, classy car, typical of the old Bugatti. It must perform well everywhere, on the road or on the track, but it must also be right for visiting the opera," he said.

The new Bugatti will sport a six-speed gearbox, four-wheel drive, and a double suspension system which will allow the driver to switch from road to track performance at the touch of a lever, Stanzani said.

It will be powered by four turbochargers — one for each group of three cylinders — and, like formula one racing cars, two injectors for each cylinder to give

a comfortable top speed of more than 300 kilometres per hour.

Faithful to the Bugatti motto "if a thing has already been done, it's a good reason to do it a different way," Stanzani and his team have borrowed materials more common to the aerospace industry like carbon, titanium and special alloys to reduce weight and increase efficiency.

"Titanium, which is almost half the weight of steel but costs 100 times as much when worked, will be used for the connecting rods. The disc brakes will be carbon," he said.

The project rivals the most ambitious of those undertaken by Ettore Bugatti in France during the 1920s and 1930s.

Bugatti, who as boy was attracted to sculpture, had already produced a racing car for Le Mans and several other models before beginning work on his dream car — the type 41, Bugatti Royale.

Five point seven metres long, with an eight-cylinder, 400 horsepower engine, the Bugatti Royale was built for a monarch's taste but launched in the middle of the great depression.

King Alfonso XIII of Spain, the first intended client, was forced to abdicate before the Royale was ready. Some other monarchs feared the \$43,000 asking price — then three times the price of a Rolls-Royce — might provoke a revolution and decline to buy.

Only six models were made and one changed hands for \$9.75 million at auction in London.

EC court upholds liberalisation of air fares

LUXEMBOURG (R) — The European Court of Justice, in a landmark judgment which could help cut air fares, ruled Tuesday that nearly all pricing pacts between airlines could violate European Community (EC) free competition policy.

The ruling is expected to help the EC's executive commission push member states and national airlines to agree new steps towards liberalising air transport.

At present, national airlines tend to fix air fares on international routes either through multilateral or bilateral agreements, a procedure attacked by critics as restricting competition and keeping air fares artificially high.

The commission has said that air transport should be treated like any other trade or service in the 12-nation EC, and should be made to follow free competition policy. But it has never been clear how the EC's free competition policy should be applied to air transport.

In its ruling, the Luxembourg-based court said all agreements between airlines — whether applying to domestic or international flights — could be outlawed as abusing a dominant position under article 86 of the EC's founding Treaty of Rome.

It also said accords between airlines on setting tariffs for flights between EC countries could be outlawed under article 85 of the treaty, which deals with free competition.

EC member states agreed in

1987 on a limited liberalisation of air transport. But the commission is expected to submit fresh proposals before the summer to open up routes to more carriers and increase the availability of discount fares.

The case was referred to the Court of Justice by a West German court, which is due to rule on a related issue involving a West German travel agency Ahmad Saeed Flugreisen.

In that case, the agency was accused of unfair competition for buying cut-price air tickets abroad to sell at lower rates than its competitors in West Germany.

A West German court will now make a final ruling on the Saeed case. But legal experts said that since the EC court had used the case as an opportunity to give a much broader ruling on air transport, it was unclear which way the ruling on the Saeed case would go.

EC to consider banking reciprocity changes

On another liberalisation issue, the EC will Thursday consider toning down controversial plans to submit foreign banks wishing to set up in the Community to a reciprocity test, EC officials said.

The proposal, part of EC plans

for a banking licence valid throughout its single market after 1992, has become the focal point for U.S. charges that the Community is building a protectionist "fortress Europe."

The officials said competition commissioner Sir Leon Brittan would ask fellow members of the European Commission, the EC's executive body, to soften the reciprocity provision, which the bloc says is necessary to ensure that its banks have access to foreign markets.

Brittan and External Relations Commissioner Frans Andriessen insist that the reciprocity provi-

Brittan is keen to present an amended proposal to the 12 EC finance ministers, who have the final say on the banking legislation, when they meet in Luxembourg Monday.

"We wanted to make (the reciprocity clause) more clear and flexible and to deal with the damaging confusion that has arisen from the original draft wording," said one EC official who was involved in drawing up the amendments.

Brittan and External Relations Commissioner Frans Andriessen insist that the reciprocity provi-

sion is needed because international trade rules for financial services are only now being negotiated in the Uruguay Round talks being held under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

From the moment there is a multilateral agreed framework, there is no reciprocity clause whatsoever," Andriessen told reporters last week.

Officials said Brittan's proposed changes address three key issues.

First, they formally define re-

ciprocity in terms of "national treatment," demanding that a non-EC country treats EC banks in exactly the same way as it treats its own banks.

Critics have said the original proposal was open to the interpretation that non-EC countries would have to give EC banks the same rights as banks enjoy in Community markets.

The United States, where banking legislation restricts the activities of all banks, has said such a provision would be totally unacceptable.

Income Tax Department urges payment of dues before end of this month

AMMAN (I.T.) — The Income Tax Department has urged all taxpayers to submit statements about their income in 1988 before the end of April 1989, the last date fixed for that purpose.

Department Director Salman Al Tarawneh said that as of the coming month taxpayers submitting statements for the 1988 income will have to pay a two per cent fine on the total amount of income.

After processing the 1988 income statements, the department normally calculates the amount of tax required from each taxpayer which can be settled during 1989.

Taxpayers settling their dues in the first three months of the year usually benefit from a discount which the department offers as an incentive to make the collection as early as possible.

According to Tarawneh, a fine of up to 24 per cent could be imposed on those failing to pay their annual or accumulated income tax to the department.

In some cases, Tarawneh noted, the department accepts an arrangement allowing the taxpayer to settle his dues in monthly installments over a period of six to 18 months.

Merger of U.S., U.K. firms creates world's 2nd biggest drug group

LONDON (R) — Britain's Beecham and Smithkline Beckman of the United States Wednesday agreed to merge, forming the second largest pharmaceuticals group in the world.

The new company, Smithkline Beecham, will be based in Britain.

Annual sales would be over \$3.7 billion (\$6.3 billion).

New Jersey-based Merck and Co. of the United States keeps its tag as the world's biggest.

Beecham Group PLC, whose products include Beecham's powders, the heart-attack drug Elmex, Tums and Sominex sleeping powders was ranked 20 in the international prescribed drug market.

The British company, which also sells Yardley leathery cosmetics and the famous Brylcreem hair cream, said it would sell its cosmetics and fragrance business for cash, plus certain other non-core businesses.

Philadelphia-based Smithkline Beckman Corp., which makes hypertension remedy Dyazide and cold relief Contac, is ranked number eight in the pharmaceuticals market.

Prior to a statement by the two companies on April 2 that a possible merger was being discussed, there were months of speculation that Smithkline might be taken over.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

		Wednesday, April 12, 1989	
		Central Bank official rates	
		Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	538.0	542.0	545.0
Japanese yen (for 100)	404.8	408.6	412.0
Dutch guilder	252.9	255.4	258.0
Australian dollar	83.9	84.6	85.3
Swedish crown	38.9	39.3	39.7
Italian lira (for 100)	32.8	32.5	32.7
Belgian franc (for 10)	136.4	137.5	138.0

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.6905/15	U.S. dollar	Canadian dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.1882/92	Deutschmarks	Dutch guilders
	1.8848/55	Swiss francs	Belgian francs
	2.1265/75	French francs	Italian lire
	1.6645/55	138.1/1382	132.82/92
	39.44/47	6.4070/4120	6.8340/90
	6.3610/60	7.3260/3310	One ounce of gold
	1381/1382	384.00/384.50	384.00/384.50

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Investor confidence in blue chip industrial stocks helped lift the Australian share market to a firmer close. The All Ordinaries Index rose 6.2 points to 1,420.9.

TOKYO — Prices saw-sawed through the day to end mixed in moderate trade. The Nikkei Index finished up 6.87 at 33,256.45.

HONG KONG — Renewed interest from overseas and diminished concerns about a rights issue by Hopewell Holdings reactivated trade and boosted share prices. The Hang Seng Index rose 34.16 points to 3,060.16.

SINGAPORE — Another hectic day of trading saw the Straits Times industrial index rise 27.59 to a new post-crash high of 1,219.02, surpassing Tuesday's 1,201.43. Turnover broke the previous record high of 123.1 million shares with 166.9 million.

BOMBAY — Share prices fell on a broad front, undermined by widespread institutional profit-taking after the market opened subdued. Tata Steel fell 30 rupees to 1,282.5.

FRANKFURT — Struggling off an arson attack that delayed the start of trading, shares rallied on technical factors to close just below new highs for the year set at around the opening. The Dax index rose 12.31 to 1,381.66.

ZURICH — Shares closed easier but above the day's lows. Prices edged down quietly from a steady opening on selected profit-taking. The All-Share Swiss Index fell 4.7 to 1,023.7.

PARIS — Midday share prices were mixed after a firm opening, with operators cautious about Friday's U.S. February trade figures and March producer prices.

LONDON — Shares were mixed in quiet late trading after an early surge which followed details of the proposed Beecham/Smithkline link-up to form the world's second largest pharmaceutical company. At 1440 GMT the FTSE 100 index was up five at 2,036.3.

NEW YORK — Stocks gained in morning trading with the help of programme buying and persistent recent gains. The Dow was up five at 2,316.

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Sports

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Ljubojevic leads World Chess Cup

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) — Ljubomir Ljubojevic of Yugoslavia remained atop the standings Tuesday in the World Chess Cup tournament after four adjourned matches were finished. Alexander Beliavsky, Soviet Union, defeated Boris Spasski, France, in one of the matches played Tuesday. In the other matches, Robert Hugner, West Germany, defeated Viktor Korchnoi, Switzerland; Valery Salov, Soviet Union, stopped Jesus Nogueiras, Cuba; and reigning world champion Garry Kasparov, Soviet Union, beat Jonathan Speelman, Britain.

Canada's Olympic boy wonder dies

SASKATOON, Saskatchewan (AP) — George Genereux, Canada's boy wonder of Olympic gold medalists more than 30 years ago, died Monday after battling ill health for decades. He was 54. "He was saying the Rosary when he died," said his sister, Carol Fraser of Seattle. "He'd been in a hospital since Easter, and on Sunday he just decided he was going to die. He started to phone his friends to say goodbye." As a 17-year-old student at Saskatoon's Nutana Collegiate, Genereux stunned the trapshooting world when he won the gold medal at the 1952 Helsinki Olympics.

Navy 21, Soviets 1

ANNAPOLIS, Maryland (AP) — The U.S. Naval Academy team took advantage of a flood of Soviet errors and walks, scoring 10 runs on three hits in the first inning en route to a 21-1 victory over a Soviet national team Tuesday in exhibition baseball. The game was the first of a 12-game U.S. tour for the Soviets. Soviet pitchers walked eight, hit four batters, threw eight wild pitches and had three passed balls in the game. Centrefielder Chris Angle went 2-for-2 with two runs scored and three RBIs to lead navy. Despite the 21 runs, just one of Navy's 12 hits was for extra bases. The Soviets committed eight errors. The Soviets, who had three hits, scored their only run in the fifth inning on their first hit of the game, a double by Leonid Komeyev to score Sergey Zhitgalov. Zhitgalov reached first on a fielder's choice and scored on a double.

Liverpool goes back to top

LONDON (AP) — Goals by John Barnes and John Aldridge gave Liverpool a 2-1 road victory at Millwall Tuesday night and sent the defending English League champion back to top of the standings on goal difference from Arsenal, Liverpool, which plays in the F.A. Cup semifinals next Saturday and is on course for another league and cup double, won its 11th straight game as it rallied after conceding an eighth-minute Dennis Salmon goal to take all three points. Barnes tied it at 21 minutes with a header and Aldridge struck a controversial winner four minutes before halftime. The Millwall players and fans reacted angrily to the goal, Aldridge's 22nd of the season, claiming John Barnes was clearly offside in the build-up. The linesman in fact had raised his flag for offside but it was ignored by the referee, who let the goal stand. Millwall surged forward in the second half and Dean Hornix hit the bar.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South West North East South
you hold:
♦ AET62 ♠ Q93 ♣ 854 ♠ 1043
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ 2 ♠ 4 ♠
What action do you take?
Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South
you hold:
♦ K652 ♠ Q62 ♠ 72 ♠ 1043
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you
hold:
♦ K652 ♠ Q62 ♠ 72 ♠ 1043
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass ?
What action do you take?
Look for answers on Monday.

For information about Charles Goren's newsletter for bridge players, write Goren Bridge Letter, P.O. Box 4226, Orlando, Fla. 32802. 4426.

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris

HARRIS 4-17 © 1989 Tribune Services, Inc.



JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

INVEG

HERIK

FRUIPY

YEMMAH

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

1-10

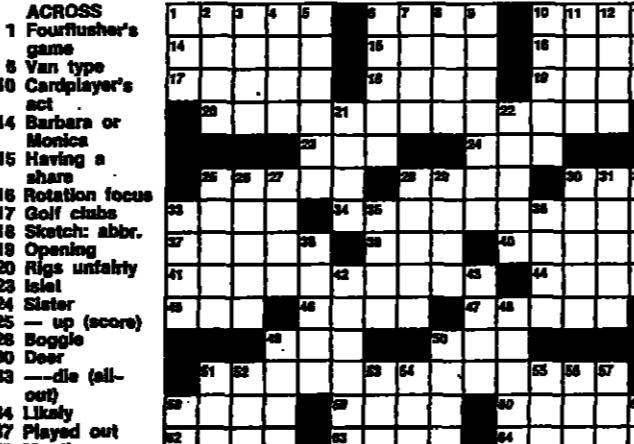
WHAT THE MAN WHO INVENTED ROPE BUILT FOR HIMSELF.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Yesterday's Jumble: NOOSE PIPER KIMONO HERMIT
Answer: What she thought she'd do when her boyfriend car needed a new muffler—KNOT HIM ONE

THE Daily Crossword

by Virginia L. Yates



Nujoma recalls fighters but few seen

Confusion mounts in Namibian standoff

LUANDA (Agencies) — South West African People's Organisation (SWAPO) President Sam Nujoma has broadcast a message by radio to his guerrilla fighters in northern Namibia, telling them to stop fighting and return to Angola, U.N. diplomats said Wednesday.

But the message's text in English, broadcast several times Tuesday from the Angolan capital Luanda did not mention U.N. assembly points in Namibia to receive the embattled SWAPO guerrillas.

The diplomats said the omission would only add to confusion already surrounding a scheme for the withdrawal of the SWAPO guerrillas agreed between South Africa, Angola and Cuba Sunday to end fighting between SWAPO and South African-led security forces which claimed at least 290 lives.

Diplomats said the message appeared to urge SWAPO guerrillas to make their way directly to Angola, bypassing the nine border assembly points set up and staffed by forces of the U.N. Transition Assistance Group for Namibia (UNTAG).

"Your leadership, your army, your commanders, your doctors and other medical officers are ready to receive you," Nujoma said in his message, a test of which was obtained by Reuters.

U.N. soldiers in Namibia say only a few guerrillas have so far come in from the bush and reported to the assembly posts, whose siting has been criticised by soldiers and diplomats in

violating an agreement calling for the rebels to stay at bases in Angola until later in the peace process.

Territorial officials said Tuesday the United Nations had agreed that police, under U.N. supervision, could interrogate guerrillas who report to the checkpoints. The questioning was to cover deployment of other insurgents and the whereabouts of possible arms caches.

Diplomats noted Nujoma's message made no mention of what the SWAPO guerrillas should do with their arms. South African authorities said the fighters were heavily-armed with automatic rifles, rocket-propelled grenades and SAM-7 missiles.

The scheme to confine the guerrillas to bases inside Angola aims to save the U.N. independence plan for South African-ruled Namibia.

"We have decided to order you to stop the fighting and to report to the People's Republic of Angola," Nujoma said, adding: "Do not initiate fighting, even if the enemy provokes you. You are ordered to fight only in strict acts of self-defence."

Angolan military sources said many guerrillas were hiding their uniforms and weapons and taking refuge in local villages.

SWAPO blames the U.N.'s special representative for Namibia, Finnish diplomat Martti Ahitsaari, for letting South Africa send troops against its fighters when violence started April 1.



South African policemen lower the body of a killed SWAPO fighter into a mass grave in northern Namibia

Concorde lands safely in Sydney despite missing tail

SYDNEY (R) — A supersonic Concorde flying at nearly twice the speed of sound lost part of its tail on a flight from New Zealand Wednesday but landed safely at Sydney airport.

Captain David Leney, pilot of the British Airways around-the-world charter with 100 Americans aboard, said he had no difficulty in handling the aircraft and made a perfect landing.

Air traffic controllers at Sydney airport ordered emergency landing procedures when they saw through binoculars that a

piece of the rudder, measuring about 60 by 90 centimetres, was missing from the tail of the aircraft.

Leney, 54, from Surrey, England, told reporters he learned that his plane had lost part of its rudder section only when told by traffic controllers after landing.

He said the first indication that something might be amiss was when there was a slight bang as the aircraft was climbing at 13,500 metres after leaving Christchurch New Zealand.

"We were then flying 1.8

times the speed of sound. My immediate reaction was something had hit the plane. But how can it happen at that height?" said Leney, who has been flying Concorde for 13 years.

"There was absolutely no indication what it was so we decided to carry on," he said.

"Then, while making the descent at Sydney an hour later, there was a vibration. It lasted two or three minutes but handling characteristics were normal."

"I was in total control and

did not at anytime feel that the passengers were in danger. I was, of course, shaken to see the missing part."

"I have never experienced like this before," he added. "Obviously something coming off the plane is serious. I don't know what caused it."

The 10-year-old aircraft, which had flown 10,000 hours, was the youngest in the Concorde fleet, Leney said. He dismissed metal fatigue as a possible cause and rejected suggestions that it was being pushed too hard on its globe-

girdling trip.

The passengers, who paid up to about \$40,000 for the 61,500-kilometre flight, were told that a panel might be loose but there was nothing to worry about.

"There was a terrible vibration. We realised something was definitely wrong. I was a little concerned," said a woman passenger who asked not to be identified.

"I prayed," said another.

Two months ago British Airways gave its Concorde fleet the all clear after discovery of tiny cracks in the roof of one of

them prompted safety checks.

Similar checks were also carried out on Air France Concorde after the cracks were discovered during a routine maintenance check last October.

A prototype of the Anglo-French airliner first flew 20 years ago last month and it has been in commercial service since 1976, mainly on Transatlantic routes.

Concorde have been involved in a number of minor incidents but there have been no major accidents involving loss of life."

Tokyo opposition seeks coalition

TOKYO (R) — Four of Japan's opposition parties Wednesday began discussions on forming a coalition in the hope of using popular anger about corruption and a new sales tax to drive the ruling Liberal Democrats from power.

All the main opposition parties except the Japan Communist Party are involved in the talks, sparked by growing disaffection with the government over the Recruit scandal and a three per cent sales tax introduced April 1.

If the talks between the Japan Socialist Party, the Buddhist-backed Komeito, the Democratic Socialist Party and the tiny social

democratic federation succeed, it will be the first opposition coalition since World War II.

The Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) has been in power continuously for the past 34 years, but the popularity rating of the current cabinet has dropped in recent weeks to around 10 per cent, an all-time low.

"We may have a chance this time, because we are acting along very realistic lines," said Shigeru Itoh, policy director of the Socialist Party, the largest opposition group.

Political analysts say most voters have traditionally viewed the policies of opposition parties on

many major issues as unrealistic, but there were signs of changes in some areas.

"Even if we came to power, we would not disband the self-defence force or abolish the Japan-U.S. security treaty and we will not shut down all the nuclear power plants," the Socialist Party's Itoh said in a telephone interview.

For months now the opposition parties have been demanding that Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita resign and call a general election as a result of the current scandal in which three cabinet ministers have been forced to resign.

(to Spain) but I'm sure it is a long-standing arrangement," Maj. Phillips said.

The latest round of stories about Anne's marriage began last Thursday when the Sun reported it had received anonymously four letters sent to Anne and stolen from her briefcase. The Sun, Britain's top-selling paper with a circulation of 4.2 million, pledged not to publish the contents and said it had turned the letters over to police.

Buckingham Palace later identified the writer of the letters as Laurence, a 34-year-old royal navy commander and equestrian, to the queen.

"I know nothing about the trip

Lockerbie couple take Pan Am to court

MIAMI (Agencies) — A Scottish couple seriously burned when their home was destroyed in the crash of a bomb-crippled Pan Am jet last year have become the first Lockerbie residents to sue the carrier in a U.S. court, attorneys said.

In a suit filed Tuesday in Dade circuit court in Miami, John and Janet Smith charged the airline and two Florida-based subsidiaries with negligence involving the Dec. 21 crash of Pan Am Flight 103, which killed all 259 people aboard and 11 others in the town of southern Scotland.

Stuart Speiser, a New York attorney representing the Smiths, said he expects to file nearly a dozen more suits in Miami on behalf of Lockerbie residents injured or killed when the Boeing 747 plunged nearly 9,500 metres after a bomb exploded in the cargo hold.

"We can expect the suits to come in the next couple of months," said Speiser, who competed with several other U.S. lawyers for the cases.

No specific compensation is cited in the suits, other than the \$50,000 minimum in damages required for filing in Dade circuit court.

Speiser said the figure will be decided prior to the jury trial sought by the suit, which names as defendants Pan American World Airways and two subsidiaries involved in security operations, Alert Management Services and Pan Am World Services.

Pan Am has offered \$100,000 each to relatives of those who died in the aircraft but, lawyers say, made no offer over casualties on the ground.

Aaron Podhurst, a Miami lawyer working on the suit, said victims on the ground are not covered by the provisions of the Warsaw Convention, which sets a limit of \$75,000 for death or injury on most international flights unless negligence can be proven in court.

'Death pavilion' head suspended

VIENNA (Agencies) — Vienna Mayor Helmut Zilk Wednesday suspended the head of a clinic where four nurses have confessed to killing 49 elderly patients.

Zilk told Franz Pesendorfer, 51, he had been suspended so that investigations into the killings could continue "swiftly and impartially," the mayor's office said in a statement.

Police said they doubted the nurses aides' claim of "mercy killing" because of the methods used.

After a cabinet meeting Tuesday, Chancellor Franz Vranitzky spoke of the case as "the most brutal and gruesome crime in Austria's history."

The first deaths in the ward at Lainz Hospital, Vienna's fourth-largest, occurred in 1983 but most were reported in the last two years, police said. The ward has come to be known as "the death

past six years by giving them drug overdoses or suffocating them by forcing water into their lungs. A fifth nurse has been held as an accessory.

Police said they doubted the nurses aides' claim of "mercy killing" because of the methods used.

As nurses carried out general duties of washing and feeding patients, but had no right to give injections, hospital officials said.

A fifth woman, Dorah Eugenie Ferrada-Avendano, was on vacation when a warrant for her arrest was issued, and went to police Tuesday to offer her help. Ferrada-Avendano is an Austrian citizen born in Chile.

Confusion shrouds fusion process

WASHINGTON (AP) — Despite two tests that seem to confirm part of a cold nuclear fusion experiment, experts said Tuesday that more questions need to be answered before most scientists accept there has been a breakthrough.

"We're all mystified by this and watching it," said Dale M. Meade, head of fusion-reaction research at Princeton University in New Jersey. "It's the scientific way to be skeptical. That process is still going on."

Meade and others said the experiments announced Monday at Texas A&M University and Georgia Tech shed some light on what University of Utah officials

claim is a demonstration of fusion achieved at room temperature.

But most experts remain unconvinced that fusion has actually taken place and some suggest the phenomenon may be something new to science.

"They (Utah researchers) have taken the position that it was a fusion reaction," said John Sorensen, a fusion scientist at the University of Rochester in New York State. "But that has yet to prove."

"I think this whole thing may go down as one of the most bizarre episodes in 20th century science," he added.

In an announcement two weeks

Colombo invites JVP to talks

COLOMBO (Agencies) — The government Wednesday suspended military operations against anti-government rebels to enable them to give up arms and surrender under a peace plan, officials said.

The week-long unilateral ceasefire began at 6 a.m. (0130 GMT), said an official.

Against the backdrop of the truce, the government also invited left-wing Sinhalese rebel leaders for talks with President Ranasinghe Premadasa on ending their bloody campaign to seize

power.

Deputy Defence Minister Ranjan Wijeratne said in a statement that the president was willing to meet leaders of the leftist People's Liberation Front at a place of their choice.

"The government is pleased to invite the leader of the JVP (People's Liberation Front), Rohana Wijeweera, or him and Mr. Upatissa Gammanayake, the general secretary, to meet with His Excellency the President," Wijeratne said.

He said if that was not possible the government was willing to hold talks with a nominee of the group.

If the JVP wishes, His Excellency (president) is willing to invite leaders of any other political party also to participate in the discussions," the statement said.

The front, which goes by its Sinhalese initials JVP, has been blamed for a string of political killings in a campaign against the presence in Sri Lanka of 45,000 Indian troops trying to end a separatist rebellion by the island's Tamil minority.

Premadasa offered the truce to Tamil and Sinhalese militants. During the truce, the military would suspend operations against the rebels.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the main Tamil rebel group, Tuesday rejected the ceasefire saying they would surrender only after all Indian troops have been withdrawn.

The JVP has not yet reacted to the truce offer. Officials said two gunmen of the front Tuesday shot and killed the twin brother of a senior military official.

The gunmen broke into Sarat Algama's house, located eight kilometres southeast of the city centre, and shot him, officials said.

COLUMN

Record price per carat

NEW YORK (R) — A blue diamond fetched \$2.09 million and a pink diamond \$1.26 million at auction Tuesday, setting world records for the highest price ever paid per carat for each kind of diamond, Christie's auction house said. Laurence Graff, of the British company Graff Diamonds Ltd., paid a record \$296,454 per carat for the 7.05-carat blue pear-shaped stone and \$408,064 per carat for the 3.14-carat pink stone. The pink diamond sale broke the record set in May 1988 when a 5.57-carat pink pearl-shaped diamond was sold in Geneva for \$278,270 per carat.

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Sarah's battle of the bulge

BIRMINGHAM, England (AP) — Edward Fennies-Clinton, a former Australian sheep shearer who is the new earl of Lincoln, received a guided tour of his family seat in northeast England Tuesday.

"This is the first time I've seen Lincoln," he said. "I like it. The city's nice and so are the people." Fennies-Clinton, 75, visiting Britain for only the second time, said he hopes to take advantage of the only real perk offered by his title — a seat in the House of Lords, the unelected upper chamber of parliament. When the Duke of Newcastle, who was also the earl of Lincoln, died on Christmas day, historians began a frantic search for the new earl. It led to Fennies-Clinton's shack in Bunting, western Australia, 160 kilometres south of Perth.

Sarah's battle of the bulge

BIRMINGHAM, England (AP) — The Duchess of York says eating vegetables helped her lose weight, and she made the revelation in, of all places, a chocolate factory filled with temptation. The staff at the Cadbury Chocolate plant in Birmingham had praised the duchess for the weight she had lost. But the 29-year-old wife of Prince Andrew, who in August gave birth to their first child, Princess Beatrice, said the effort has been a nightmare. "I eat raw vegetables — lots of raw vegetables. I am still trying, but it is very hard," the former Sarah Ferguson said. Confronted with wall-to-wall chocolates during her five-hour